



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 524

February Session, 2016

Substitute House Bill No. 5229

House of Representatives, April 7, 2016

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. JUTILA of the 37th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CHANGING CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN THE STATE CODES OF ETHICS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (k) of section 1-84 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (k) No public official, spouse of the Governor or state employee
5 shall accept a fee or honorarium for an article, appearance or speech, or
6 for participation at an event, in the public official's, spouse's or state
7 employee's official capacity, provided a public official, Governor's
8 spouse or state employee may receive payment or reimbursement for
9 necessary expenses for any such activity in his or her official capacity
10 from the sponsor of the event. If a public official, Governor's spouse or
11 state employee receives such a payment or reimbursement for lodging
12 or out-of-state travel, or both, the public official, Governor's spouse or
13 state employee shall, not later than thirty days thereafter, file a report

14 of the payment or reimbursement with the Office of State Ethics,
 15 unless the payment or reimbursement is provided by the federal
 16 government or another state government. If a public official,
 17 Governor's spouse or state employee does not file such report within
 18 such period, either intentionally or due to gross negligence on the
 19 public official's, Governor's spouse's or state employee's part, the
 20 public official, Governor's spouse or state employee shall return the
 21 payment or reimbursement. If any failure to file such report is not
 22 intentional or due to gross negligence on the part of the public official,
 23 Governor's spouse or state employee, the public official, Governor's
 24 spouse or state employee shall not be subject to any penalty under this
 25 chapter. When a public official, Governor's spouse or state employee
 26 attends an event in this state in the public official's, Governor's
 27 spouse's or state employee's official capacity and as [a principal
 28 speaker] an active participant at such event and receives admission to
 29 or food or beverage at such event from the sponsor of the event, such
 30 admission or food or beverage shall not be considered a gift and no
 31 report shall be required from such public official, spouse or state
 32 employee or from the sponsor of the event. As used in this subsection,
 33 "active participant" means a speaker, panelist, moderator of a panel or
 34 presenter of an award who provides substantive official service to the
 35 sponsor of the event.

36 Sec. 2. Section 1-96e of the general statutes is repealed and the
 37 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

38 Each registrant who pays or reimburses a public official or state
 39 employee ten dollars or more for necessary expenses, as defined in
 40 section 1-79, shall, within [thirty] forty-five days, file a statement with
 41 the Office of State Ethics indicating the name of such individual and
 42 the amount of the expenses.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	1-84(k)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	1-96e

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(k), "a sponsor" was changed to "the sponsor" for consistency.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill eliminates a requirement that public officials and state employees who are "active participants" at certain events and receive admission to, or food or beverages at the event report those expenses to the Office of State Ethics. This will not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5229*****AN ACT CHANGING CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN THE STATE CODES OF ETHICS.*****SUMMARY:**

Under the state Code of Ethics, state employees and public officials, including the governor's spouse, may accept payments or reimbursements for necessary expenses (i.e., lodging, travel, meals, and registration fees) if, in their official capacities, they write an article, make an appearance or speech, or participate at an event. This bill extends, from 30 days to 45 days after a payment or reimbursement, the deadline by which lobbyists who provide more than \$10 in payments or reimbursements for necessary expenses must report them to the Office of State Ethics (OSE). It retains the 30-day reporting deadline for the recipient of the payment or reimbursement. It also specifies that the payment or reimbursement must be from the activity's sponsor.

The bill also eliminates a requirement that public officials, including the governor's spouse, and state employees who (1) are "active participants" at an in-state event and (2) receive admission to, or food or beverages at, the event from its sponsor report such expenses to OSE. It similarly eliminates a requirement that the event sponsor report such expenditures. Under current law, only expenses for a "principal speaker" are exempt from the reporting requirement. The bill defines "active participant" as a speaker, panelist, moderator of a panel, or presenter of an award who provides substantive official service to the event sponsor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sSB 361, reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, contains identical provisions (§§ 9 & 17), except that they are effective October 1, 2016.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 0 (03/18/2016)